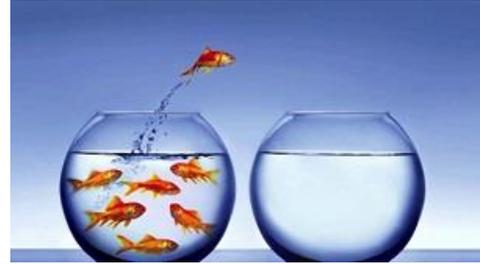


# Out of My Mind

## Books in A Nutshell

by Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



(INSPIRED BY DAVE BARRY'S BOOK, "BAD HABITS")

I was sitting next to a boring person at a wedding reception last week. I decided to read a book to avoid any conversation with the boring person. Yes, I always carry a book with me to marriage receptions to ward off such situations. The boring person interrupted me by asking what was I reading.

Me: This is the latest James Bond novel, "With A Mind To Kill."

Boring person: "But I thought Ian Fleming died in 1964. How can he write James Bond novels now?"

Me: " Ian Fleming may be dead but James Bond never died."

I started thinking why do I read James Bond novels? It's the same story in all James Bond books. A villain tries to create trouble. James Bond kills him. In the process, he makes love to many beautiful women.

I read two books every three months out of necessity. I write book reviews for The Think Club Quarterly because no one else wants to write a book review for me. Most of the books I read are more boring than the boring person sitting next to me. The problem is that books have too many pages. The

writers unnecessarily make their books too long.

This has been the story of my life. When I was young, my father made me read boring classics. The whole classic could be summarized in a few words. Here are some examples.

War And Peace: Everyone is sad. It snows.

Moby Dick: Man vs. whale. Whale wins.

Crime And Punishment: Murderer feels bad. Confesses. Goes to jail. Feels better.

The Sun Also Rises: The lost generation gets drunk. They're still lost.

Wuthering Heights: Heathcliff rises in his adopted family and then is reduced to the status of a servant. The young woman he loves decides to marry another.

If the writers got right to the point, the world would be a much happier place. People could pursue other hobbies such as reading real-life stories and gossiping on social media. Finally, I decided to put down my book and talk to the boring person instead.